

Explaining Japanese culture to British friends

Have you ever explained your culture to someone from another country?

Vocabulary Match

1. included 2. upright 3. silence 4. manners 5. tipping 6. curious

___ extra money ___ straight up ___ politeness ___ part of ___ interested ___ quiet

Conversation

James and Kenji discuss key aspects of Japanese culture, like public manners and dining etiquette, highlighting differences from British customs.

James: Kenji, I've always been ____, what's something important to know about Japanese culture?

Kenji: One big thing is ____, especially in public. For example, people don't talk loudly on trains.

James: Oh, really? I guess that's quite different from the UK!

Kenji: Yeah, ____ is seen as polite. Also, ____ isn't a thing in Japan.

James: No tipping? That's surprising. Why not?

Kenji: Service is already ____ in the price, and good service is expected without extra payment.

James: I see! Any other big differences?

Kenji: A few things! Never stick chopsticks ____ in rice, and don't pass food from chopstick to chopstick - it reminds people of funeral customs.

James: Wow, I had no idea! I'll try to remember that next time we eat Japanese food.

Quiz

1. What is one important aspect of Japanese culture that Kenji mentions?
2. How are people expected to behave on trains in Japan?
3. Why is there no tipping in Japan?
4. What should you avoid doing with chopsticks in Japan?

True or False

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| 1. Silence is considered polite in Japan. | True False |
| 2. Tipping is common in Japan. | True False |
| 3. Passing food from chopstick to chopstick is a normal practice in Japan. | True False |

Discussion

1. What is something unique about your culture that you would share with a friend?
2. Have you ever been surprised by a custom from another country?
3. What is your favorite Japanese food?
4. Do you think silence is polite in public?
5. How do you feel about tipping in restaurants?